



Indiana Kids First Trust Fund

SFY 2005-2006 Annual Report

KFTF Mission

Children are our most important assets. Our mission is to promote the health of children and reduce infant mortality, by funding programs, which prevent child abuse and neglect. In conjunction with the State of Indiana the board is looking toward partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing and stable homes.

KFTF Values

The Indiana Kids' First Trust Fund Board has adopted the values implemented by the Department of Child Services. Those values are as follows:

1. We believe every child has the right to be free from abuse and neglect.
2. We believe every child has the right to appropriate care and a permanent home.
3. We believe parents have the primary responsibility for the care and safety of their children.
4. We believe the most desirable place for children to grow up is with their own families, when these families are able to provide safe, nurturing and stable homes.
5. We believe every person has value, worth and dignity.
6. We believe in personal accountability for outcomes, including one's own growth and development.

KFTF Goals

The Board has adopted the following goals as a means of fulfilling the overall mission:

1. Reduce the number of deaths due to abuse and neglect;
2. Reduce the total number of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect;
3. Reduce the infant mortality rate.

In addition, the Board looks forward to working with the Department of Child Services on the following goals:

1. To protect children from abuse and neglect.
2. To support families in identifying and using their inherent strengths and the resources in their community to resolve the conditions that led to abuse and neglect.
3. To affect permanent change that enhances the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families.
4. To maintain and develop essential connections with family when children are unable to remain in their home.

5. To ensure that all children have the opportunity to achieve permanency through family preservation, family reunification, adoption, or independent living.

The Board believes that at the core of every decision shall be the consideration of the safety and well-being of the child. We understand that the practice values and principles represent the belief that by using evidence-based methods we can best achieve the mission of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) by collaborating with their goals and mission.

Looking to the Future

In 2006, Kids First Trust Fund shifted direction from funding individual community service providers to funding statewide, community-based, prevention focused programs. The purpose of this new approach is to provide a statewide, coordinated continuum of child abuse and neglect prevention programming. In 2006, Kids First Trust Fund dollars were awarded to two new programs, **Community Partners** (secondary prevention) and **Prevent Child Abuse Indiana** (primary prevention).

The purpose of Community Partners is to develop a child abuse prevention service array that can be delivered in every region in the state. This service continuum will build community supports for those families that are identified through self-referral or other community agency referral to a service that will connect families to the resources needed to strengthen the family and prevent child abuse and neglect. It is intended that through the delivery of these prevention services the need for referral to Child Protective Services will not be necessary.

Community Partners include, but are **not** limited to: schools, social services agencies, health care providers, public health, hospitals, child care providers, community mental health agencies, local DCS offices, child abuse prevention agencies like Healthy Families and local Prevent Child Abuse Councils, Youth Services Bureaus, Child Advocacy Centers, faith-based community, Twelve Step Programs. In general, each community defines its own partnerships. However, Local Offices of the Department of Child Services are required by the Director of DCS to be a partner. DCS must be a partner because Child Protective Services Investigators frequently identify families that could benefit from services, but do not have a substantiated

Letter from KFTF Board President

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Kids First Trust Fund (KFTF) in 2006, a year of transition. The Indiana Department of Child Services leads us in this transition by embracing a new mission and vision to guide the work of the agency to benefit Indiana's children and families. DCS' vision is *"Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities,"* and its mission, *"The Indiana Department of Child Services protects children from abuse and neglect. DCS does this by partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes."*

Historically, Indiana has invested approximately \$56 million each year to numerous programs designed to prevent child abuse and neglect. The KFTF has played an important role in many of those efforts since our inception. 2006 has been a year of transition for KFTF as we have devoted revenue to fund State-wide prevention initiatives and partnering with the DCS in leveraging other funds for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. This transition has only begun but promises to help all Hoosier children and families learn strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect, at the same time that communities become engaged in prevention efforts. This Annual Report provides you with a snapshot of the programmatic accomplishments this year.

Thank you for your continued support of children by purchasing a Kids First license plate. Together with your investment and support, Indiana can become a state where children are safe, nurtured, cared for and thrive.

Sincerely,
Clara H. Anderson
Board President

case of child abuse. It is believed that if these families receive supportive services that they are less likely to have a substantiated case of child abuse in the future.

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI) goals include:

- To partner with PCAI's local Councils, the Department of Child Services, and other statewide and / or community-based networks of individuals, public and private sector organizations to support child abuse and neglect prevention efforts across Indiana.

- To build greater community support for public and social policies that contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- To develop procedures and tools for educating future parents, caregivers, families, and the general public how they can help to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- To identify, create and distribute printed prevention materials targeted at assisting parents and caregivers with identified, stressful or challenging "parenting" issues and to promote available resources for support for children and families.
- To enhance and expand the Annual Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Month (ICANPAM) campaign held in April - to coincide with the designated, national Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Awareness Month - to encourage individuals and communities to become more involved with protecting and nurturing children and supporting parents.

Parents should be empowered and given the opportunity to take responsibility for their children and resolve issues of abuse and neglect. Therefore, it is felt that as we move towards a more statewide approach to prevention, we will see families engaged with honesty, empathy and openness. The Board understands that listening and helping, families will develop their strengths to meet current and future needs. The Board looks at helping families remain families by recognizing that:

- Every person has value and worth and should be treated with honesty and dignity. Every family has strengths that can be developed.
- Family members are experts of their own families. All families should be given the opportunity to display the family rules, traditions, history, and culture.
- Family perspectives, goals and values will be regarded as critical to creating and maintaining child safety.
- Families are core members of the decision making team, therefore decisions about child and family team interventions shall be relevant, comprehensive, and effective.
- Parents must be supported in accessing services and understand that incorporating those services is necessary to improve outcomes for children.
- The family's network is essential to supporting and sustaining change. Families shall meet their needs through their own strengths and with the support of their networks.
- Coordination of the family team and accomplishment of its goal is essential and works most effectively when it occurs via regular face-to-face meetings that ensure more successful and positive outcomes.

Family Success Story *from SFY '05-'06 funding*

Families and Schools Together (FAST) is designed to reduce school failure of at-risk children through a collaborative prevention program involving the child, the family and the schools. FAST has four primary goals: To enhance family functioning, to improve school performance, to prevent substance abuse in children and families and to reduce stress for both parents and children.

As a prevention program, FAST's long term outcomes include helping families build in protective factors and future resiliency against abuse, drug and alcohol dependence and school failure. Short-term outcomes include increased family cohesion and increased social competencies in children.

When Mark came to FAST, he was merely looking for something to do with his newly acquired kids. Their mom had just taken off without a word and didn't return. His son and daughter were nervous and timid while the other kids ran wild.

Mark considered himself a good father, but he was a truck-driver and spent many days away from his children. He didn't feel like he knew them that well, or how to take care of them properly. He needed to make some changes, so he found a job working days and tried to get his kids involved in school.

Mark came to FAST for a fun activity in a positive environment. He was surprised when his children thrived and he learned to better communicate with them through the activities. He also became a part of a lasting social support system.

The other parents at FAST took to Mark and helped with his parenting questions. When the eight weeks was over, Mark felt like he'd made a lot of new friends and was excited when he heard about the monthly follow-up program. While Mark and several of the moms at Slate Run had nearly perfect attendance at FASTWORKS, they didn't need the program to stay in touch. Their friendships brought them together on many non-FAST occasions.

A year after graduating from FAST, Mark had Christmas dinner with three FAST moms and their kids. They hadn't planned to spend Christmas together, but after a snowstorm the moms couldn't get to their intended out-of-town destinations. Mark brought them to his home, where he cooked a feast for everyone to enjoy.

It was two years ago that Mark and his kids entered the program. Now his son is in Boy Scouts (and Mark is the group leader), his daughter is on the wrestling team and the family mentors new families in the FAST program.

Parent Success Story *from SFY '05-'06 funding*

A letter from a real parent:

Hello my name is Danielle. I would like to tell you of my experience with Meld. It was just after Christmas of 2001. I had just lost my job, my house, was living with my mom had two kids at the time and just found out I was pregnant. I had originally met Debbe about insurance. When she told me about Meld, I went the first meeting and loved it. I was very depressed given my situation, the group members made me feel good about myself. I made new friends and it also gave me an outlet for my stress and a break from my kids.

Fast forward to present day. I still love going to Meld. Even though things are better now I have my own house, a wonderful new baby. I don't know what I would've done without Meld. Everything happens for a reason I see that now. Even though I lost a lot, I have also gained so much more, such as peace of mind, friends, something to look forward to every Thursday, and a chance to give back to the community by helping out with the Meld program. I am so glad to be a part of Meld. Seeing how much this program has helped me I am excited for the new members coming in.

Program Funding in SFY '05-'06

County	Number of Agencies	Amount Awarded
Adams	2	\$53,200.00
Allen	1	\$13,046.00
Bartholomew	3	\$39,392.00
Cass	1	\$9,880.00
Clark	1	\$13,965.00
Dearborn	1	\$9,500.00
Dubois	1	\$11,400.00
Elkhart	1	\$19,380.00
Floyd	2	\$39,169.00
Jefferson	1	\$14,250.00
La Grange	1	\$19,000.00
La Porte	5	\$83,929.00
Madison	1	\$20,900.00
Marion	7	\$138,660.00
Marshall	1	\$13,205.00
Monroe	3	\$96,110.00
Montgomery	1	\$30,589.00
Orange	1	\$11,780.00
Posey	1	\$10,900.00
Putnam	1	\$28,500.00
St. Joseph	3	\$81,130.00
Scott	1	\$12,920.00
Shelby	1	\$26,505.00
Tippecanoe	3	\$51,170.00
Vanderburgh	3	\$59,850.00
Vigo	1	\$14,155.00
Wabash	3	\$34,655.00
Wayne	3	\$45,360.00
Total	54	\$1,002,500.00

Plan for Child Abuse Prevention Month, 2007

The Indiana Kids First Trust Fund Board is excited to be a part of the major changes that are occurring in the State of Indiana. Prevent Child Abuse Indiana will solicit mayoral proclamations for child abuse prevention month. We anticipate that child abuse prevention awareness will be increased through these efforts.

Media Campaign

DCS and the Kids First Trust Fund launched a series of PSAs during summer 2006. The three-part series highlighted drowning and positional asphyxiation - causes of dozens of youth deaths per year in Indiana. The campaign was intended to draw attention to preventable deaths and inspire conversation about preventing harm to children. At the same time, another television spot asked drivers to consider purchasing KFTF license plates. A considerable amount of earned media came from the summer campaign, which won several local advertising awards. A follow-up campaign is planned for 2007.

Lend a Hand: When, What & How to Report Child Abuse & Neglect

Why to report

Reporting child abuse and neglect can protect the child and get help for the family.

When to report

You are legally required to report a suspicion of child abuse and neglect. You are not required to provide proof, but your report must be made in good faith. Failure to report or knowingly making a false report can lead to criminal and/or civil liability.

Warning signs

Some of the behavioral signs listed below may be an indicator of something other than abuse or neglect; however, any indicator which gives one "reason to believe" that abuse or neglect is occurring should be reported.

Warning signs that a child might be abused or neglected may include:

- Frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries
- Nervousness around adults
- Aggression toward adults or other children
- Inability to stay awake or concentrate for extended periods
- Sudden, dramatic change in activities or personality
- Acting out sexually or showing interest in sex that is inappropriate for that age
- Low self-esteem
- Poor hygiene

Where to report

If you suspect a child is being harmed, contact Indiana Child Protective Services at 1-800-800-5556 or call the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453) immediately.

What to report

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- The child's name
- Address of child or where abuse is occurring
- The suspected perpetrator's name (if known)
- A description of what you have seen or heard
- The names of any other people having knowledge of the abuse
- Your name and phone number (please note that you can report anonymously)

Reports are confidential

The names of those making these reports are not given to families reported for child abuse or neglect; however, sometimes by the nature of the information given, your identity might become evident to the family. You may request to make your report anonymously, but your report may be considered more credible and can be more helpful if you give your name.

What happens next?

DCS will assess the situation and, if necessary, open a case. After a case is opened, services will be put in place and the juvenile court system will become involved.

Prevention & Resources

Studies show that through family education and support programs, the cycle of abuse and neglect can be stopped. Programs that provide support, information and early interventions are the best ways to help abusive parents and families at risk of abuse. These programs include Community Partners, which will build community support to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

*** Approximately 53, 000 families and children received services through the funds allocated by the Indiana Kids' First Trust Fund.**



State of Indiana

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The Indiana Department of Child Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, national origin, or ancestry.

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